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CAMBRIA.

A

POEM,

IN

THREE BOOKS.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

HISTORICAL, CRITICAL & EXPLANATORY
NOTES.

Humbly Inscribed to his ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE GEORGE.

By RICHARD ROLT.

*Heliconidasque pallidam que Pyrenen
Illis remitto, quorum imagines lambunt
Hederæ sequaces. Ipse semipaganus
Ad sacra Vatum carmen Affero nostrum.*

PERSIUS.

The SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. OWEN, at TEMPLE-BAR. 1749

7835.1387

MAY 17 1916

Harvard University
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ILLUSTRATED WITH

NOTES

Illustrated by the Royal Academy

By RICHARD ROY

THE SECOND EDITION

LONDON

Printed by J. C. NEW, at the University Press

5821
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5/14

27/6/74

CAMBRIA.

BOOK I.

C O N T E N T S

Of the FIRST BOOK.

SUBJECT, to v. 10. Address, v. 20. Invocation, v. 27. Description of the Antient Britons, v. 98. Cæsar's invasion, triumph, death; and reflections thereon, v. 143. Roman emperors, to Claudius, v. 161. Roman conquests under Claudius; his defeat of and triumph over Caradoc, v. 189. Roman wars with Vanoë, v. 223. Eulogy on Ambrose Phillips, Esq; v. 229. Britons civilized by Agricola, v. 235. Severities of Rome, v. 249. Roman customs introduced in Britain, v. 255. Exclamation on the British depravity, v. 265. British invaders, to the conquest of Llewellyn, v. 277. Union of Wales with England, v. 290.

Illustrious Prince! long may our CAMBRIA boast
The ROYAL BRUNSWICK LINE, they long enjoy
CARNARVON'S honours, nor the palatial breath

Of soul sedition bear; while dainties, we
The royal walls with devoted lives

Will guard their sacred rights; and the remote
From political climes, yet our self-wills
Shall smile beneath thy care; AONIA'S Choir

CAMBRIA.

BOOK I.

SHALL other climes incite poetic strains,
With scarce a city, mountain, vale, or stream
Unsung; and CAMBRIA, thou! unnoted pass
By the PIËRIAN train? Forbid it heav'n,
5 This blest asylum, thro' the depths of time
Mark'd out for sacred freedom, should in vain
Attract the MUSES' aid! --- Hear ye who cull
The laureate grove, where PRICE, all-honour'd sage!
Diffus'd his bounty; hear, and blush, that none
10 Attunes the lyre to praise your natal land.

Illustrious

L. 8. Price] Hugh Price, LL. D. in the year 1571. founded
and endowed Jesus College in Oxford as a seminary for the gentle-
men of Wales.

Illustrious PRINCE! long may our CAMBRIA boast
 The ROYAL BRUNSWICK LINE, they long enjoy
 CARNARVON's honours, nor the baleful breath
 Of foul sedition fear; while dauntless, we,
 15 Thy loyal vassals with devoted lives
 Will guard their sacred right: and tho' remote
 From polish'd cities, yet our steril waste
 Shall smile beneath thy care; AÖNIA's Choir
 Ring round our vales, and as AMPHION sweeps
 20 The harp, our rugged rocks shall smooth their brows.

HENCE FICTION, mount excursive on the wing
 Of roving FANCY; hasten to the gloom
 Of myrtle groves, where some enamour'd maid
 In sapphic Numbers breathes her tender tale;
 25 Or gayly quaffing their nectarean bowls,
 The frolic sons of wine enliven wit:
 Here TRUTH historic! spread thy faithful page.

IF CIMBRIAN GOMER from the CELTIC shore,
 Or heav'n-descended BRUTUS, first explor'd

The

L. 13. *Carnarvon's honours*] Edward of Carnarvon the first English Prince of Wales.

L. 28. *Gomer*] Eldest son of Japhet, founder of the potent nation of the Celtes, according to Berosus, peopled Gaul 142 years after the flood; but nothing can be more absurd than to suppose that there was any migration of the Gomerian Tribe until after the general dispersion at Babel, and then Pelontier in his history of the Celtes, has proved, by a great number of testimonies, that all the European nations were originally of the Celtic extract, more particularly the Gauls, Britons, &c. Is it not therefore more reasonable to conclude, that this island was first peopled by the numerous, warlike, and enterprizing Gomerians, rather than by a fugitive band of dispirited Trojans?

L. 29. *Brutus*] Son of Silvius and nephew of Ascanius. His arrival in this island, A. M. 2855, is imputed merely as the fiction of
 legendary

30 The fertile borders of the swelling THAMES,
Imports not; BRITONS! 'tis enough you boast
A race of heroes, antient as the pen
Of time; whose love of freedom, honour, truth,
Disdain of servile ease, and glorious toil
5 For liberty, be your sublimest praise.

OUR ancestors, in that far distant age,
Were like their grateful soil, incult and rude;
Deep in the shelter of umbrageous woods
Their sylvan cities rose; where art ne'er pil'd
o The sculptur'd stone, nor glow'd enflaming kilns
To dense the conculcated clay; but sheds
Low-roof'd repell'd the tempest-beating show'r;
No voice of commerce summon'd busy throngs,
Their wants were few, by nature's frugal hand
5 Suffic'd; the grassy plains with fleecy flocks
Were whiten'd; on spontaneous pasture fed

The

legendary writers; for though antiquity has given much credence to the fabulous assertions of Geoffry of Monmouth, yet our later ages have pulled the Gothic veil of ignorance from the face of truth, and exploded the opinion of Brutus first settling in and giving his name to Britain. Which naturally infers a like negative as to his son Camber bestowing the etymon of Cambria to Wales.

We have also an account of a long succession of kings in Britain before the time of Brutus; however Lewis, in his introduction to the history of Britain, has undertaken to prove, that even the Trojans were actually a colony of Gomerians, and after their extirpation from Asia, transplanted hither under the conduct of Brutus or Brito, of whom the most that can be said is, that he invaded and took part of the island from its original inhabitants the Gomerians; who were thereby forced to retire further westward, where their language proves them to have remained to this day.

L 39. *Sylvan cities*] The habitations of the ancient Britons were among the thickest woods, where, by cutting down trees, and inclosing large plots of ground, they built huts to live in, and folds for their cattle; the whole surrounded with fortifications of timber.

The lusty steer, and browsing by his side
 The wanton heifer swell'd her milky store;
 While clamb'ring goats ran o'er the craggy wilds,
 50 Repaste of hunger: the pure living stream,
 Or crystal spring, refreshing, slak'd their thirst,
 And sanient herbs preserv'd decaying health.
 This gave them life, fleet as the forrest hart,
 Strong as their mountain oak, and more untam'd
 55 Than the ghaunt wolf that prowld their barren rocks.
 A race of warriors, bold, inur'd to toil,
 Where sex no fond exemption found, but male
 And female pois'd alike the pointed spear,
 Form'd from the stubborn ash; or brac'd the bow
 60 Of flexile yew; while girt around their loins
 The shining falchion down their nervous thighs
 Hung graceful: often sent with dext'rous aim,
 The strong-whirl'd jav'lin, or the feather'd shaft
 Brought prone the grinning wolf, whose sever'd head
 65 Avow'd the trophy of their vig'rous arm.
 Naked like nature's commoners they ran,
 From heat solstitial and hyemal blasts
 Unguarded; on their blazon'd bodies shone

L. 57. *Where sex no fond exemption found*] The female Britons, with truly amazonian spirits, partook the dangers of war, with an alacrity and courage equal to the intrepidity of their bravest men.

L. 66. *Naked, &c.*] Herodian tells us, the Britons neither wore nor knew the use of clothes; yet from this line, *Quam veteres brachæ Britonis pauperis*, it seems they were not absolutely destitute of clothing.

L. 68. *On their blazon'd bodies*] Mela leaves it as an uncertainty whether the Britons painted their bodies for ornament or use: however in this they did not aim, like the Gelones, only to look terrible.

The hero's actions, tracing out renown
 70 Superior to those ostentatious plumes
 Of modern honour, waving o'er the brows
 Of chiefs unmilitary; lovers proud
 Of beauty's modest smile, o'er their fond hearts
 Inscib'd the virgins captivating forms,
 75 And won their kind consenting souls with truth.
 Distinction hence the regulated plan
 Of order gave, in social limits bound
 The moral mind, illustrating the worth
 Of virtue, with a more conspicuous ray
 80 Than the faint lustre of ennobling stars.

EACH canton'd realm a sov'reign monarch rul'd
 Distinct; their laws the DRUIDÆ reveal'd;

B

And

to their enemies, but traced their different subordinations, according to their ranks and employments in the state; and as it was customary, in this manner, to represent their common occurrences in life, it afforded them a modest opportunity of perpetuating the memory of any signal action.

L. 81. *Each canton'd realm*] The constitution of Britain, as Cæsar found it, consisted of seventeen different kingdoms, each governed by an absolute prince.

L. 82. *Their laws the Druidæ reveal'd*] We can arrive at no greater knowledge of the institution and codex of these laws, than from a retrospect to the general Polity of the whole body of the Celtic nations, who are said to have received their digest from Samothæ, of which the Druids and Bards were interpreters; in them lay the decision of all civil and criminal causes, and their judgment was held in such high veneration, that they excluded from assisting at divine worship those who refused an implicit conformity to any of their sentences; a punishment severer than death, as it deprived them of the common blessings of society, every one being enjoined from their conversation. Among these Druids was one chief, who had the supreme authority. To the care of these sages was also committed the instruction of youth in the studies of philosophy, astronomy, astrology, the immortality and transmigration of the soul, the precepts of which they esteemed too sacred to commit to writing.

And where the range of venerable oaks
 Uprear'd their lofty trunks, invok'd their gods;
 85 Whose altars frequent reek'd with human blood,
 While holy knives the quiv'ring entrails tore,
 And thence divining searh'd the will of fate.
 The tuneful BARDI at the hallow'd feast

Strung

L. 83. *Oaks*] The Britons, agreeable to their notions of the unconfined divinity, planted spacious groves of oak for their religious assemblies. This tree was their emblem of the deity, to which they attributed many supernatural virtues; but more particularly if bearing mistleto, whose leaves were peculiarly appropriated in their rights of devotion. In the centre of these groves they erected their temples, conformably to those of the antient Patriarchs, called altars in scripture; these were large and rude stones set upright in the earth in circular figures, with a stone for an altar properly laid flat on the ground, encompassed with ditches, and always on elevated places: here they assembled, ordinarily, on sabbath days, where they retained the memory and use of the sabbath from their patriarchal predecessors; and, extraordinarily, to sacrifice on the four quarters of the year, the equinoxes and solstices. These temples were adorned with magnificent avenues, and a hippodrom for horse and chariot races, which the antient Britons celebrated at their annual festivals with sacrifices and other solemnities, as was the practice of the Phœnicians, Greeks, Romans, and other antient nations; and round these temples were numerous barrows, or sepulchral tumuli, being the single burial places of kings and eminent personages. The greatness and number of the Druids works remaining in Britain, agrees with what Cæsar relates of them; Abury and Stonehenge, both in Wiltshire, are the chief, and were certainly British temples; Abury is by far the greatest and most antient, Stonehenge the most polite; and the latter was built, according to the calculation of the ingenious Dr. Stukeley, four hundred years before the incarnation, so that it has not the least semblance of the Roman architecture, but on admeasurement by the antient Hebrew, Phœnician, and Ægyptian cubit, falls into whole and apt numbers consonantly to the measure of those scales.

L. 85. *Whose altars, &c*] Mela says they offered human victims, as most acceptable to their gods; and Diodorus affirms, they drew their augury from the blood streaming out of the wounds of their sacrificed prisoners.

L. 88. *Bardi*] It appears from Cæsar, that there was a material distinc-

Strung their melodious harps, and carol'd out
 90 The praise of heav'n; or in high-sounding strains
 The groves loud eccho'd, with the virtuous deeds
 Of wise, august, brave, just, and godlike men.

HAPPY ye natives of this little world,
 Secluded from mankind ! whose gen'rous glebe,
 95 Blest with indulgent skies, propitious heap'd
 Autumnal harvests round the plenteous isle,
 And ever-flowing streams in wanton course
 Slow gliding, lav'd the flow'ry-herbag'd banks.

ROME crown'd with universal conquest, stretch'd
 100 Her empire from Assyria's eastern banks
 Where proud Euphrates flows, to Taio's stream
 Sparkling with gold thro' Lusitanian vales :
 Great JULIUS his triumphant eagles led,
 And reach'd Britannia's coast ; what could retard
 105 Such potent force ? Improvident of war,
 Brave CASSIBELINE deems contention vain,

B 2

Chas'd

distinction between the Druidæ and Bardi, the former being exempted from military duty, which the latter, though equal in other respects, were obliged to undertake ; and by their poetical and musical compositions exhort the people to heroic actions.

Vos quoque qui fortis animas belloque peremptas,

Laudibus in longum vates dimittitis ævum,

Plurima securi fudistis carmina Bardi.

LUCAN.

L. 106. *Cassibeline*] Though the Britons were divided into several independent monarchies, yet on the Roman invasion they united under the command of Cassibeline, king of the Cattieuchlauni, whose territories comprised the present counties of Buckingham, Bedford, and Hertford. — *Summa belli administrandi communi consensu commissa est Cassivellauno.* Cæsar.

Chas'd o'er the field, beholds his regal town
Flame to the sky, and tributary reigns.

UNHAPPY æra! soon the swelling tide
110 Wafts CÆSAR's navy to the Gallic shore.

Inglorious round his gay triumphal car
A captive band of British youths attend,
Sighing their noble spirits out in bonds.
Imperial ROME shakes with the loud acclaim
115 That hails her warrior home; tumultuous throngs
Admire the beauteous BRITONS; comely, tall,
Fair, and proportion'd: "From such graceful shapes,
"(They cry) here PHIDIAS might improve his skill."

Thus ROME crowns her dictator lord of all
120 The habitable globe, and shameful! falls
Herself the last dishonourable prize.

AMBITIOUS CÆSAR! soon thy glories fade,
And LIBERTY her chosen BRUTUS sends
To strip the fading laurels from thy brow:
125 To wound thee more, thy dear-lov'd BRUTUS stabs,
And, like TIMOLEON, while his arm subdues
The tyrant, nature weeping mourns the friend.
Now what avails PHARSALIA's carnag'd plain
Drench'd

L. 107. *His regal town*] Old Verulamium, situate on the river Ver, near St Albans, sacked by Cæsar.

L. 108. *And tributary reigns*] This prince twice gallantly repulsed the army of Cæsar, composed of the bravest and best disciplined veterans the world ever produced; but, through civil dissensions, was at last obliged to submit to the Roman, who imposed a tribute, and took with him

L. 112. *A captive band of British youths*] As hostages, and appointed them to serve as lictors, and in the theatre.

L. 122 to 143] Vid. Lucan. Phar.

Drench'd with patrician blood? of what import
 130 The death of JULIA's lord, and fatal end
 Of godlike CATO? if to thy revenge
 They fell great immolations! what are now
 Thy trophies, honours, and unbounded sway?
 Lo! there he lies, stretch'd out beneath the base
 135 Of POMPEY's statue! lo, there bleeding lies,
 Oh! world, thy mighty victor! — Ah! how dim
 Those eyes, whose angry gaze once aw'd mankind?
 How sunk those features? and how wan that brow,
 Whose bursting frown cou'd look sedition dead?
 140 How still his fearless heart, that brav'd the seas
 Opponent rage? See! lifeless, there he lies,
 No more than poor AMYCLAS to be fear'd!
 Mourn for the man, but — let the tyrant die.

OCTAVIUS reign'd; JANUS, thy temple folds;
 145 PEACE rears her olive wand; the MUSES string
 Their silver lyres, inspire the MANTUAN song,
 The wit of HORACE, and the tender flow
 Of SULMO's charming bard; extensive joy
 Wings the wide world, and distant BRITAIN shares
 150 Each happy blessing of this golden age.

AUGUSTUS, thro' the well-spent scene of life,
 Display'd his character with high applause,
 And made a worthy exit; on his throne
 TIBERIUS sat, till timid CAIUS bore
 155 The diadem that crush'd his feeble neck;

And

L. 151, 154] *Augustus, — Tiberius, — Caius*] During their reigns
 the Romans never entered Britain, but received an annual tribute.

And CLAUDIUS shook the reigns of empire. Then
 Repining BRITONS scorn'd the sordid pay
 Of tribute; soon rapacious troops invade
 Their isle; the sons of CUNOBELINE fly,
 160 Levell'd in dust CAMELODUNUM falls,
 And the rude war flies o'er the SABRINE stream.
 ALOFT, procumbent o'er the fallow dales,
 A spacious hill projects its ample shade,
 Whose summit to the stretching eye descries
 165 Where URICONIUM, once the stately pride
 Of old CORNAVIAN princes rose; or where
 Fam'd USOCONIA stood; but now afar
 Discerns SALOPIA's spires; unhurt by time,
 As consecrated to CARADOC's worth,
 170 The memorable mount retains his name.

THE

L. 156. *Claudius*] At the instigation of Bericus, an exiled Briton, sent an army under the prætor Aulus Plautius into Britain, who defeated Caractacus and Togodumnus, sons of Cunobeline, late king of the Trinobantians, whose kingdom was composed of Middlesex and Essex.

L. 160. *Camelodunum*] After this defeat Claudius arrived in person, and took Camelodunum, the capital of the Trinobantians; so named in honour of Camulus, one of the British deities, and now Malden in Essex.

L. 163. *A spacious hill*] The mountain of Caer Caradoc, corruptly called Corduc or Quorduc, near Stratton in Shropshire, memorable for the gallant Resistance made here against Ostorius, prætor of the Romans, by Caradoc the famous king of the Silures, A. D. 53. Near this place Caradoc erected a fort at the influx of the river Clun with the Temd.

L. 165. *Uriconium*] Now Wroxeter, a small village about six miles from Shrewsbury, formerly a spacious city, the metropolis of

L. 166. *The Cornavii*] Antient inhabitants of the counties of Warwick, Worcester, Stafford, Chester and Salop.

L. 167. *Usoconia*] Now Okenyate, at the foot of the Wrekin in Shropshire, which was formerly a populous city of the Romans.

THE bold SILURIANS here unite their spears;
 Here glorious CARADOC! awaits the war;
 Nor long: impatient of the promis'd fight,
 OSTORIUS marching brush'd the morning dews;
 175 Meets with repulse, and feels the valiant arm
 Of freedom, striking for her noblest stake.
 But ah! heav'n frowning doom'd the BRITISH host
 To glut the hostile sword; they fight, they bleed,
 Smile on their honest wounds with joy, and die.
 80 Ev'n CARADOC retires; unhappy chief!

Thy

L. 171. *Silurians*] The country of the Silures comprehended Herefordshire, Radnorshire, Brecknockshire, Monmouthshire, and Glamorganshire.

L. 180. *Even Caradoc retires, to L. 189.*] On the defeat of Caradoc, his wife, daughter and Brothers were taken prisoners; the unhappy monarch throwing himself into the protection of Cartismandua, queen of the Brigantes, now Yorkshire and the other northern counties, was by her treacherously delivered to the Romans, who exposed him as a captive in the triumph of Claudius, for the Conquest of Britain. As Caradoc had been for the space of nine years, a fatal enemy to the Romans, they thought this victory not inferior to the conquest of Pyrrhus; and so high an estimation did that warlike people conceive of the valour of the Britons, and the honour of making any acquisitions amongst them, that several of their Emperors assumed the surname of Britannicus. The Roman historians give us a noble relation of the behaviour of Caradoc, whose martial reputation occasioned an innumerable concourse of spectators, all fond to survey this brave and unfortunate prince, as he was conducted through the Italian cities to Rome; where on being produced to the senate, though in chains, his graceful conduct struck that august assembly with admiration and pity; and the Emperor was so sensibly affected, at his noble deportment when oppress'd with such heavy calamities, that he afterwards not only generously reinstated him in his kingdom, but granted him the privileges of a Roman denizon, and ever after affection and gratitude maintained an inviolable friendship between them. During the residence of Caradoc and his family at Rome, his daughter altered her British name to Claudia, in honour of the Emperor, and married Rufus a Senator of great distinction, whom

- Thy royal consort, pledge of nuptial love,
 Thy princely brothers, fall the victor's prize :
 Thyself a fugitive, abandon'd, lost,
 And, worse than death, a fetter'd captive! sent
 185 To grace the triumph of a haughty foe :
 Yet there, sublime in his imperial state,
 Relenting CLAUDIUS, saw a BRITON chain'd
 Shine forth in native pomp, and with the blaze
 Of kingly virtues shame his abject bonds.
- 190 ILL-FATED isle, distrest severely, while
 Thy restive sons involuntary bend
 The knee to CÆSAR, or with VANOC fly,
 And reach the hills of CANTREDMAUR; there safe
 In their stupendous heights, opacous woods,
 195 And trackless windings, live secure; content
 Among these desert rocks, to breathe the pure
 Unfally'd air of liberty divine.
 Ennobled spirits! thus what cannot hearts

Fir'd

whom Martial, Lib. 4. Ep. 13. and Lib. 11. Ep. 54. celebrates for her beauty and perfection in the Greek and Roman languages. This lady appears to have been a disciple of St Peter, and conveyed as much honour to her native country, by her zealous promoting of christianity, as her father had done by his magnanimity; and her eldest son Timotheus is said to have arrived in Britain and converted king Lucius.

L. 192. *Or with Vanoc fly*] Vanoc or Venusius king of the Cornovii, after the fatal subversion of Caradoc, was appointed supreme commander of the British forces, and finding himself unable to resist the victorious and well disciplined legions of Rome, retired with his army, to

L. 193. *The hills of Cantredmaur (or the great hundred)*] A safe refuge for these voluntary sons of liberty among the mountains of Carmarthenshire.

Fir'd with heroic zeal, and high contempt
 200 Of slavish life, untam'd, sublimely dare ?

VANOC, majestic prince ! here trains his bands
 To toil and action ; some with sinewy step
 Scale the steep cliff ; some firm their agile limbs
 In manly exercise, to guide the car
 205 High-bounding down the hollow rocks,
 Or o'er the shaft bestride the mettled steed
 Firm as a centaur ; or the race, the vault,
 Athletic grapple, or unerring aim
 Of quiver, spear, and all the martial skill
 210 Exciting emulation, fires the heart.

Thus better disciplin'd, they wield the sword,
 And launch their jav'lins with superior grace,
 Nor fear the foe ; an injur'd monarch wakes
 Their fury : As ÆOLUS o'er the main
 215 Impells the gather'd blast, strong surging waves
 Scoop up the sands, billows on billows roll
 High foaming, with the congregated roar
 Plunge thund'ring down, and rush impetuous on.
 So rag'd the BRITONS, and before them swept

220 The scatter'd force of VALENS ; DIDIUS came,
 An hoary chief, tho' bred to battle e'er
 The callow down had spread its virile shade,
 Great VANOC all his ripen'd glories shed.

C

ADMIR'D

L. 213. *An injur'd monarch*] Vanoc was husband to Cartismandua queen of the Brigantes, who consorting with Vellokad his charioteer, eloped into her own kingdom, and sheltered herself beneath the protection of Valeris, then prætor of Britain, from the resentment of an incensed husband ; but in vain, fired with an indignation suitable to the provocation of their leader, the Britons defeated Valens and his successor Didius.

- ADMIR'D VENUSIUS! if the MUSE can twine
 225 The wreath of fame around her hero's brow,
 Thine PHILLIPS wove; for when his DORIC reed,
 Had charm'd the rural groves, like MANTUA's swain
 He drop'd his pipe, and in a nobler song
 Wound palms immortal to thy honour'd name.
 230 THE BRITONS long with unremitted arm,
 Intractable, oppos'd the ROMAN force,
 Till AGRICOLA spread the milder dawn
 Of polish'd manners; in the flow'ry paths
 Of civilizing life sooth'd the fierce soul,
 235 Soften'd the heart, and humaniz'd the mind.
 No more oppressive levies fill'd the land,
 Or from their harvests tore reluctant swains.
 What numbers of the BRITISH youth, compell'd
 To quit their native soil, have march'd beneath

The

L. 226. *Phillips*] Vid. Briton, a Tragedy wrote by Ambrose Phillips, Esq; a gentleman whose good-nature and humanity endear him to all his acquaintance, and with his other virtues, should commemorate him to posterity with honour, equal to the merit of his elegant writings, and whose singular regard for the Author may well justify this small memorial of gratitude and respect.

L. 232. *Agricola*] Proprætor of Britain under Titus, after subduing the Ordovices, (whose country contained the counties of Montgomery, Merioneth, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and Flint) and Mona, now the isle of Anglesea, first began to civilize the Britons, and introduce among them the Roman customs, which was afterwards completed by Lucullus proprætor under Domitian, and in this time Arviragus, mentioned by Juvenal, is said to have flourished among the Cangi, the former inhabitants of Cheshire.

L. 238. *What numbers of the British youth*] The Romans, as was customary throughout their conquered provinces, filled their auxiliar Legions with Britons, politically transporting them to foreign countries, that so they might be removed from fomenting any domestic revolts, and awe the remoter appendancies of the empire into allegiance.

- 240 The ROMAN banners? freezing in the wilds
 Of SCYTHIA, or in LYBIAN deserts parch'd
 With torrid suns? or left their mangled limbs
 To glut devouring vultures, or the maw
 Of rabid tygers on HYRCANIAN sands?
- 245 What floating navies bore each annual crop
 The BRITISH hind with painful labour sow'd,
 To feast the legions? while amid his fields,
 Late-waving thick with promis'd plenty, starv'd
 The pining tiller in his turfy cell.
- 250 PEACE smiles on BRITAIN; and her rude-cast huts
 Deserted, by the ROMAN artists rise
 Aspiring structures; mural cities, towns
 Full-peopled, fair magnific temples grace;
 Where blended BRITONS learn the language, dress,
- 255 The manners, arts, and luxuries of ROME.
 CURSE on the LATIAN modes! for they deprav'd
 Our honest plain integrity; inform'd
 The tongue unmanly to bely the heart;
 Taught us dissimulation — dastard vice!
- 260 The naked body, true, they cloth'd; but hurt

C 2

The

L. 245. *What floating navies bore each annual crop*] It is asserted the Romans annually exported from Britain, no less than eight hundred vessels laden with corn for the provision of their armies; from whence it was reputed the granary of the western empire.

L. 250. *Peace smiles on Britain*] Lucullus proprætor under Domitian, completed what Agricola had left unfinished in converting the Britons to the Roman manners.

L. 256. *Curse on the Latian modes*] The Britons were plain and upright in their dealings, and far from craft and subtilty.

Diodorus Siculus.

The nobler being — they disrob'd the soul !
 Restrain'd her noble sallies, cramp'd her force
 In dull inactive sloth ; spread the base gloom
 Of indolence round each exalted thought ;
 265 And FREEDOM, pluck'd the feathers from thy wing !
 EXPELL'D their fertile plains, the BRITONS mur'd
 In rocky wilds, thro' bleeding ages saw
 Their mother land dismember'd, by the force
 Of ROMANS, SAXONS, CALEDONIANS, DANES ;
 270 And last the NORMANS, more diminish'd push'd
 The CAMBRIANS to their distant mountain tops.
 Scorning ignoble bounds, they warr'd in vain ;
 Yet, unsubmitting, here they struggled hard,
 And bravely held an independant state ;

Till

L. 266. *The Britons mur'd in rocky wilds*] The Romans by maintaining here three legions, consisting of 23,000 foot, and 2,000 horse, and continually harassing the Britons, had gradually drove them into the mountainous part of Wales ; and the most fertile tract of the whole island being in the Roman possession, they at first divided it into three, but afterwards into five provinces ; and after a government of four hundred and seventy years, on the division of the empire by Honorius (A. D. 407.) the Romans being recalled to assist Valentinian, unwillingly left Britain to its antient proprietors ; and were, at different times, succeeded by, the

L. 269. *Saxons, Caledonians, Danes*] Who severally, after many irruptions, confined the Britons among their impregnable fortresses of Wales.

L. 274. *And bravely held an independant state*] On the departure of the Romans, the Britons sent an embassy to Aldroenus king of Armorica, now Bretagne in France, requiring his assistance against the ravages of the Saxons ; this prince knowing himself and subjects to have descended from a colony of the Britons, sent his brother Constantine with a powerful army to their relief. Constantine, after repulsing the Saxons, established a new monarchy, which existed with the dignity of kings of Britain to A. D. 689, when, on the death of Cadwallader, the whole name and nation of the Britons

275 Till rash LLEWELLIN urg'd by wizard tales,
 Vanquish'd before victorious EDWARD fled,
 And young CARNARVON gain'd the feudal mise.

THE

Britons were distinguished by three divisions, in the Britons of Cornwall, the Cumberland Britons, and the Britons of Wales.

Idwallo, son of Cadwallader, retired with the remainder of his Britons into the western mountains, which from him received the appellation of Wales; this prince, on the death of his father, instead of reviving the sovereignty of king of the Britons, assumed the title only of king of Wales, which continued under the jurisdiction of one monarch, until Roderic II. surnamed Mawr (or Magnus) A. D. 870. divided it between his three sons, with a reservation of supremacy from the kings of South Wales and Powisland, to the kings of North Wales successively. On this division the kingdom of South Wales subsisted, from Cadell, 2d son of Roderic Mawr, to Gruffyth ap Rhese, the last prince of this country, in a succession of upwards of three hundred years.

The territories of Powisland on the failure of the hereditary succession, A. D. 1160. devolved to the princes of Gwynedd, or North Wales, who retained their regal dignity till the year 1078, when Gruffyth ap Conan the 21st king of Wales from Cadwallader, did homage to William the Conqueror; and it is very observable, that the Welch not only kept themselves free from the Saxon yoke, but lived to see these victors bow to the Normans, while they still existed brave and unconquered. The successors of Gruffyth had only the title of princes of Wales, which continued in an uninterrupted line, to Llewellyn II. the last prince of Wales of the British race, being 405 years from the death of Cadwallader. This prince consulting with a witch, was told, it was his destiny to be carried through London with a crown on his head; this inciting him to make Excursions on the English borders, after concluding, and retracting a peace with Edward I. he was slain near Buellt in Brecknockshire, and his head crowned with a paper diadem, pitched on a stake, and carried triumphantly through London, A. D. 1282. in which terminated the long and fatal period of antient British liberty.

L. 277. *Young Carnarvon*] Through the policy of his father, was created the first prince of Wales of the English line.

L. 277. *Gains the feudal mise*] Every prince of Wales at the time of his creation received a mise or customary present of 5000 l.

THE royal NORMAN, mildly to his pow'r
 Cements the BRITISH nations; yet prolong'd
 280 The grand alliance, till on ENGLAND's throne
 The race of TUDOR rose; united then
 The kindred states with filial love embrac'd.
 And thus indissolubly firm, not all
 A leagu'ing world, can quell the gen'rous sparks
 285 Of FREEDOM planted in our infant souls;
 Tenacious of those ever sacred rights,
 For which our heroes bled, our patriots plann'd,
 Should XERXES millions pouring on the plain
 Invade us, not the MARATHONIAN bands
 290 Would shine before us in the list of FAME.

L. 278. *The royal Norman*] On the subjection of Wales, by act of parliament held at Ruthland in Flintshire, 12th Edward I. this principality was divided into six counties; but as they retained their own laws, so they were esteemed as aliens, and excluded from the benefit of the laws of England,

L. 280. *Till on England's throne*] Henry VIII. who derived his genealogy from Cadwallader, his father Henry VII. being son of Edmund Tudor earl of Richmond, son to Owen Tudor by Katherine of France, widow of Henry V. which Owen Tudor sprang from an original branch of the last king of the Britons; and by act of parliament made 35th Henry VIII. Wales was incorporated with England, its natives subjected to the same laws, made capable of enjoying the same preferments, and endowed with like privileges and immunities as the English; and the country subdivided into thirteen counties as it now stands, excepting Monmouthshire, since included among the counties of England.

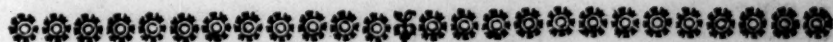
The END of the FIRST BOOK.

CAM-



CAMBRIA.

BOOK II.



C O N T E N T S

Of the SECOND BOOK.

*E*ULOGY on the British language, natural productions of Wales, and manners of the inhabitants, to v. 77. Invocation to the seasons, v. 85. Description of spring, v. 107. Powis Gardens in Montgomeryshire described, v. 170. Eulogy on the Earl of Powis and a rural life, 191. Description of summer, and a morning walk to a country farm, v. 226, Noon, v. 251, And Hatterel Hills in Monmouthshire, v. 269. View of the sea coast of Pembrokehire, and Eulogy on Admiral Vernon, v. 313.

CAMBRIA.

* B O O K II.

AUSPICIOUS heav'n! why this peculiar grace
 Conferr'd on Britons? how have they preserv'd
 A speech invariable?—See the wreck
 Of vast extended empires, kindoms, states,
 5 Whose shoreless pow'r spread round the nations, sunk
 D In

* The Author of this Poem conscious that any historical description of the principality of Wales, must be unavoidably attended with an invariable tedious and barren stile; and as his chief intention is to represent the most remarkable curiosities this country has afforded, to render it the more amusing he has made choice of the poetical diction, as that alone may possibly invite a great number of British subjects to gather a little information of so material a tract of their native island, of which the general part of the kingdom seem as entirely ignorant as they are of the late Russian discoveries in the Tartarian sea. This and the following Book are wrote with this design; but as it would be impossible in a work of this inconsiderable nature, fully to trace and geographically describe the different prospects to be taken round the several counties, it has been considered as the most eligible method to disregard historical regularity, and to throw
 together

In the wide gulph of TIME ; some scarce retain
 A name, the mighty fame of others lost :
 Ev'n glorious GREECE in Gothic mourning weeps ;
 Imperial ROME boasts but a small remains
 10 Of all her grandeur, and repining fits
 Amid supremest ruins ; while enslav'd
 Alike, in Turkish or Pontific chains
 They tremble, infidel and christian dread !
 And ah ! have lost their native tongue divine !
 15 A language fit for angels ; graceful, rich,
 Gay, copious, and sublime ; transcending far
 The voice of nature spoke in other climes ;
 While uncorrupted, the GOMERIAN speech
 Remains

together in a general description, the most particular parts of the country, traced through the various seasons of the year, as were the most suitable to receive any embellishments from the assistance of poetry. This method has the inconveniency of admitting no possibility of handling the subject with that coherence, dependency and arrangement of thoughts, as in other poetical performances ; nor can it therefore be reasonably expected, in so singular an undertaking, to exert the animating part of poetry without sacrificing perspicuity to ornament, and giving art a dagger to stab at nature in the most vulnerable part.

L. 18. *While uncorrupted, the Gomerian speech*] That the Welch language is the same with the antient British, will admit of no controversy, especially when Camden, Wootton, Hick, Bochart, Pelontier, Lewis, Pezron and other antiquarians inform us, that it is also a dialect of the Celtic or Gomerian ; and this not at all improbable, as we have the testimony of Tacitus, that the Britons and Gauls had but little variation in speech, and as the Welch term their own language gomraeg or cymraeg, that is, the language of Gomer. Cluverius in his antiquities of Germany, after including Britain in the dominions of the Celtæ, says, the same language was used there as in the other Gomerian nations, which was the Gomraeg, though split in various dialects, according to the separation of the several tribes of that people. The name of Gomerians as well as the language is still preserved among the Welch, but especially in North Wales.
 And

Remains as in anterior ages, strong,

20 Deep-cadenc'd, nervous, unimpair'd by time.

THE PYRENÆANS, APPENNINE, and ALPS,
With meaner altitude invade the skies,

Than CAMBRIAN mountains; if more fervid suns
Beam on HESPERIA, and invest her hills

25 With olives, vineyards, and perennial spring,

Deny'd our colder clime; yet we possess

More useful blessings, while our flocks and herds

Range o'er the cliffs to feed their native swains,

And cloath mankind: gush'd from aërial springs,

30 Down thro' the channel'd rock oft-winding, fall

Our limpid streams, and bounteous spread their course,

With waters purer than the TREBBIO rolls,

Their banks more fruitful than CLITUMNUS saw,

TIBER ne'er swarm'd with such a finny store,

35 Nor Po in all its pride so nobly flow'd.

D 2

What

And in a specimen wrote by Mr Edwards, he has proved the Welch or Gomraeg to be singular to the Hebrew. The Britons, notwithstanding the many irruptions among them, still retain the true name and primitive language of their ancestors, although the Normans endeavoured, by express laws, to abolish the use of it; and memorable is the reply of an old gentleman of Wales to Henry II. "That whatever changes might happen to any other part of the world, he would not believe, any other nation or language than the Welch, should answer at the last day, for the greatest part of this corner of the island!"

L. 24. *Hesperia*] The antient appellation of Italy, derived from Hesperus the evening star, in regard to its western situation from Greece.

L. 29. *And cloath mankind*] Wales produces a very beneficial manufacture of wool; this commodity, called welch frize, was formerly vended at Oswestry, but the merchants of Shrewsbury, on the Welchmen coveting to draw the staple into Wales, by retarding the sale, have conveyed the whole trade to their own town, and export very large quantities abroad.

What tho' the GOLCOND or SARDONYX mines
 Rich jewels yield of brightest blaze, yet beam'd
 On glist'ning GOLDCLIFFE Phæbus forms our stones
 With lustre fulgent as the Æthiop's gem :

40 Nor envy we PERUVIA's golden dust,
 While in our colder soil the leaden ore
 Lies plenteous, and our sable pits afford
 Pure fires, warm blazing on the wintry hearth :
 The orange groves and aromatic shades,

45 ORIXA bears, how trivial is their worth
 Compar'd with gnarled oaks, whose aged trunks
 Thick spread the CAMBRIAN soil, to rib our fleets
 And bear BRITANNIA's thunders round the globe?
 The wholesome air diffuses on our cheeks

50 The rosy flush of health ; or on the brow,
 Enthron'd with modesty, the lilly'd hue
 Of beauty reigns as in the vernal morn.

RICH in our bosoms spring the tender seeds
 Of kind humanity, there at their home

55 Sincerity and faithful friendship meet,
 The plain good heart accompany'd with truth
 Possess the habitation ; hence the prompt
 Concern to chear distress, when the rude waves

Drive

L. 36. *Golcond or Sardonyx*] Mountains in the province of Mulipatan in India intra Gangem, famous for their abundance of brilliant diamonds and sardonyx stones.

L. 38. *Goldcliffe*] A rock on the coast of Monmouthshire, so denominated from its profusion of transparent stones of a golden colour. Near this rock formerly stood a priory, founded by the Chandos family.

L. 45. *Orixá*] Or Orifon, an Indian province, tributary to the Great Mogul.

Drive the tall vessel bulging on the rocks
 60 Ingulph'd; the miserable crew appall'd
 And trembling, from the dismal wreck escap'd,
 Find hospitable aid. True, the fierce starts
 Of passion warring in our souls, deform
 The frame of nature; does not this become

65 The candid, open, undesigning man?
 Yes, avaricious custom, first impos'd
 A curb on reason, we despise the chain!
 Scorn the deep formal syren-smile of fly
 Hypocrisy, the vile invidious phrase

70 Of smooth betrayers; with a SPARTAN grace
 Speak the blunt dictates of the soul; but when
 The big emotion of exulting thought
 Subsides, the rough IONIAN lull'd to rest,
 Knows not a stiller calm; the heav'nly spheres,
 75 Round the bright sun not more harmonious roll
 Eternal order, than each tuneful pulse
 With equal measure fluctuates the heart.

YE ever changing seasons; thou gay SPRING
 In florid vest array'd; bright SUMMER ripe
 80 With luscious fruitage; fecund AUTUMN crown'd
 With golden sheaves; and WINTER clad in snow;
 Unbosom all your scenes: inspire the song,
 With each alternate prospect CAMBRIA yields,
 Where NATURE wild sits on the desert peak,
 85 And sees full plenty crown luxuriant vales.

INCLEMENT WINTER with his hoary train
 Flies at the soft approach of genial SPRING:
 The brumal NORTH no longer sweeps the sky
 With

With furly roarings, and the settled gloom
 90 Rolls off. FAVONIUS breathes a silken gale ;
 And Æther thinly spreads its fluid robe
 Azural, with profluent bosom sheds
 Distilling show'rs mild on the crusted glebe,
 And calls the vegetative world to life.

95 BLOWN lightly austral breezes gently fan
 The slowly-waving boughs, while near the TWINS
 The sun more fervid pours increasing heat,
 And teeming NATURE from her pregnant lap,
 Discloses all her beauty ; liveliest green
 100 Invests the lawns, each hedge and mountain leaf ;
 The faint-hu'd primrose, o'er the sloping bank,
 Mid spotted cowslips burst their velvet buds
 Enamell'd ; pleas'd to crop their flow'ry food
 The frisking heifers low, thick o'er the sides
 105 Of verdant hills the kids and lambkins play,
 Or tugging at the teat lacteal, wide
 The tender bleatings fill the hollow vales.

YE virgins while impurpled MAY your blush
 Of beauty wears, to POWIS GARDENS haste ;
 110 Come share the season in its gayest prime ;
 A spot like EDEN fit for angel walks,

More

L. 108. *Powis Gardens*] These beautiful gardens are at Castle Coch, or Red Castle, in Montgomeryshire, the celebrated seat of the noble family of the Herberts. This antient edifice is supposed to stand on the ruins of Berry, one of the Roman cities, and by the coins formerly dug up about the building, it seems to have been the residence of a legion. The structure is a beauty in the gothic taste, built of red stones, within the compass of one wall, formerly containing two castles, the one belonging to the Lords of Powis, and the other to the Baron Dudley.

- More heav'nly than ALCINÖUS ever saw;
 Where variegated NATURE wanton freaks
 Her gaudy sport, in FLORA's richest pride.
 115 Long vistas, winding allies, high-arch'd groves,
 The rising terras, and the sinking fount,
 The sculptor's toil on animated rocks,
 Yield all the beauties of ELISIAN STOWE.
 Inflected to the breeze, the rust'ling glade
 120 Its foliage shakes; and from the myrtle bow'r,
 With roses, amaranths, and woodbine wove,
 Ambrosial odours load the flying gale.
 And hark! the sylvan choir rejoicing, wake
 Sweet HARMONY! wide, universal flies
 125 The strong symphonious strain, high-rais'd to heav'n;
 It falls decaying in melodious trills,
 And all is mute: forth from the latent spray,
 The lonely thrush with numbers shrill and clear,
 Low-vary'd in each gentle dying note,
 130 Chaunts lovely; hush'd attention stills the grove,
 Save now and then the linnet's melting airs,
 Catch the low warble, and lone ECCHO flings
 Abroad the multiplying strain; anon
 The tuneful thousands swell their mellow throats
 135 In one promiscuous consort; all is joy.
 Rushing sonorous falls the hoarse cascade,
 Regurgling thick with torrent murmurs down;
 Aloft thro' FAME's refulgent trump, ascends
 The spouting cataract, and plashing forms
 140 So clear a lake, the vestal huntress there
 Had bath'd delighted, here NARCISSUS seen
 A fairer

- A fairer bloom, there might the NEREIDS sport.
 Invited by yon conchy arch, where shine
 Cerulian spoils thick o'er the lucid grott,
 145 The simple maid unweening treads the snare ;
 Sudden ten thousand fountains spring beneath
 Her feet, hemm'd round, this way and that, she runs
 Wet with the many-spouted show'r, and screams
 Affrighted ; while the merry youth distorts
 150 His rustic features with a lusty laugh.
 Whate'er enfeebled nature, ALBION's isle
 Disherits of her store, our mimic art
 But languidly supplies ; here the bleak blast
 Forbids the smile of ASIA's blooming spring
 155 Eternal, and the fragrant growth profus'd
 By sultry suns prolific on the wilds
 Of AFRIC, where the lustful ÆTHIOP woos
 His sable mate to cool his savage flame,
 Or roves impatient with the fire of love
 160 Amid the shade of myrrh and citron groves.
 Yet in yon GREEN-HOUSE has the curious hand
 In horticulture skill'd, with labour'd art
 Astonish'd nature ; there the nurtur'd tree
 Protected from the chiller air, hangs thick
 165 The pulpous orange, or the lemon shews
 Its paler head, amid the virid wood :
 The tender plant here kind nutrition draws,
 And with the flow'r or shrub, that drooping fade
 Among the common soil uncherish'd, spread
 170 Their fairest honours in their loveliest pride.

In

- In the calm eve here noble HERBERT strays
 Amid the solemn deep-embow'ring shades;
 Bright with descending dews; or from the walls
 Of hapless CADUGANE does POWIS rise,
 175 And rove among the myriad gems of morn,
 Inhaling health from the salubrious breeze?
 Happy the man, approv'd, and blest by heav'n,
 That in the sylvan shade shakes from his breast
 The bait of folly, and the sting of vice;
 180 Most happy he that shuns delusive sounds
 Of gay, inglorious life, pomp, pleasure, fame;
 Nor contumelious frowns on humble worth,
 And cheers distress; but looks contemptuous down
 On the vain fool of fortune; merit seeks,
 185 And found, caresses with a filial love.
 From the green-bosom'd park, thick with the groves
 Of antient DRYADS, what fair prospects rise?
 Beneath lies TRELLIN, and SABRINA casts
 A westward look, to trace the splendid seat
 190 Of antient MATHRAVALL, the BRITISH pride
 And grand emporium of the MERVIN line.

E

SOON

L. 171. *Herbert*] The earl of Powis.

L. 174. *Cadugane*] Son of Blethin the renowned Briton, began the foundation of Red Castle, and was slain by his nephew Madoc before he had completed it.

L. 188. *Trellin*] Welch Pool in Montgomeryshire.

L. 190. *Mathravall*] On the division of Wales by Rodoric Maur, Mathravall or Powisland was given to his third and youngest son, Mervin, with a royal investiture; his kingdom containing the whole counties of Montgomery and Radnor, all Shropshire beyond Severn, with Shrewsbury and great part of the counties of Denbigh

Soon more intense the tropic ray descends,
 And op'ning roses swell with solar heat.
 Short are the shades of night; when matten cocks
 Proclaim the dawn and wake the village round,
 195 The jolly shepherd drives his flock afield,
 Blythe whistling as he trudges on; the mists
 Fly round the mountain-brow, and hov'ring swim
 In purer air: and now the rising sun

Faint

and Flint. This kingdom continued entire in an uninterrupted succession of princes, from the reign of Mervin to Meredyth ap Blethyn, who following the ill example of Rodoric Maur divided his possessions between his two sons, of these Madoc the elder, A. D. 1160. died at Winchester; and as this territory had then been almost overrun by the Normans, Henry I. deeming the stile of prince too magnificent, created Gruffyth, the surviving son of Meredyth, lord of Powis, which honour continued allodial to his descendants until Owen ap Gruffyth, in a parliament convened at Shrewsbury in the reign of Edward I. surrendered his honours to and received the same again from the king, to hold in capite and free baronage, according to the custom of England; John Charlton, Esq; gentleman of the bed-chamber to Edward II. marrying Avis, daughter and sole heiress of Owen, in right of his wife, was created Lord Powis, from whom the title and estate came to Jane, daughter of Edward Lord Powis, descended from the family of Charlton; and the same being by her conveyed to the house of the Greys, was enjoyed by five of that family, till the race of Mervin became extinct, in the death of Edward Lord Grey; but the title was again resumed in Sir William Herbert of Red Castle, created Lord Powis, 1st Charles, 1629. in whose family the dignity continued to the late Marquis, and on his death, again revived in Henry Arthur Lord Herbert of Chisbury, now Earl of Powis. When Powisland was governed by the the British princes, called kings of Mathravall, their residence was at Pengwern (or Mwythig) now Shrewsbury, where at this day remains on the western or welch Bridge over the Severn, the statue of Llewellyn 1st king of Gwynedd; but the regal seat was afterwards removed to Mathravall, about five miles west of the Severn in Montgomeryshire, which has nothing left to perpetuate its memory. By the regulation of Wales in the reign of Henry VIII. on distinguishing the principality by the north and south divisions, Powisland was devoured between them, its name neglected, and the limits are now almost forgot.

200 Faint glimmers in the roseate east, and tips
 The hills with gold ; still gaining on the day,
 Obliquely glancing, streams the tide of light.

In this prime season, with the soaring lark
 Shrill prologue of the morn, let me arise
 205 And wander o'er the stretching lawn, fair mead,
 Or shady copse; where chirp the new-fledg'd birds,
 Tim'rous to quit elastic sprays, while loud
 The parent-songsters eccho thro' the woods,
 Proud to discharge their oviparous care.

210 Embosom'd in a range of tufted trees
 A cottage smokes, and feeding round the barn
 The num'rous poultry cluck ; at my approach
 The dog yelps louder ; stretching out his neck
 The gander hissing guards the downy gulls ;

215 Ducks quacking skim the foul lutulent pond ;
 The gobbling turkey reddens as he struts ;
 And cackling fly the hens : the kind old dame
 Suspends the latch, and with the honest smile
 That poverty delights in, hails my walk.

220 Her buxom damsels thump the cleanly churn
 Full-mantling, yellow with delicious cream ;
 Others in moulding vallows hard compress
 The lilly curd, and form the CANGIAN meal ;
 Some at the distaff twirl the spindle round,

225 Skain on their reels th' attenuated thread,
 And sing light-hearted some love-ditty'd tale.

THE sultry sky glows with meridian heat ;
 Shunning the warm effulgence, bird and beast
 Explore the cooling shade : roll'd in the cock

230 Of hay florulent, snores the languid swain;
 Stretch'd in the clover ditch faint-lowing herds
 Couch ruminant, or in the silver lake
 Whose glassy bosom shews the flitting clouds,
 With hoofy plashings stir the mulchy soil.

235 WHILE thus pervading noon excessive pours
 The blaze of day, smote with the torrid gleam
 All nature panting; pleasing are the brinks
 Of ever murm'ring streams, or tepid brook;
 Or where high on some airy hills, tall firs,

240 Extensive oaks, and lofty-branching elms
 Spread their broad glooms, let me reposing bare
 My bosom to the fanning breeze; or read
 The voice of wisdom in the learned page,
 Sounding poetic raptures thro' the wood;

245 Or musing deep on time, fate, life, and death,
 Eternity, and other worlds unknown,
 With solitary footsteps silent roam
 Lost in profoundest thought; 'till sudden falls
 Of gurgling waters down the shelving banks,

250 Or from the bough, some lonely-cooing quise
 Strike on my ear, and drive the vision off.

BUT chief where gentle MUNOW curls beside
 The shade EWIAS' yields, would I resort;
 There the steep hills of HATTEREL ascend,

255 Girt by whose space, lone in the flatted vale,

Of

L. 253. *Ewias*] A Vale encompassed by Hatterel Hills in Monmouthshire, formerly so remarkable for an hermetical abbey it incited Roger Bp of Salisbury, then regent of England, purposely to take a journey to gratify his curiosity with a sight of so noted a place.

- Of old a cloister'd pile arose ; so low
 Its site, scarce could enquiring eyes discern
 Impendent goats high-ranging crop the browze ;
 None but meridian suns glanc'd in the day
 260 With transient beam ; in this cymmerian gloom
 Sate SILENCE pensive in his mossy cell
 Contemplating ; or soon as morn stream'd white
 With orient brightness, the reclusive sage
 Stept forth, and felt the vivid breeze play fresh
 265 Around his temples ; rapt'rous virtue rear'd
 The pious hand, and adoration bow'd
 The knee, expressive of the grateful heart :
 For 'tis the good man's lesson thus to hail
 The God of nature in his glory's dawn.
 270 WITH milder glance the darting sun-beams course,
 And fervour quits the plain ; fresh-springing gales
 Breathe coolness, and the face of nature smiles.
 One reddened blush interminable runs
 Continuous thro' the sky ; behind the fleece
 275 Of yon refulgent cloud, the golden sun
 Just glimmers on OCTOPITARUM's brow
 And sinks unseen : within the bord'ring vale

MENEVIA'S

L. 276. *Octopitarum*] The most western promontory of Wales in Pembrokeshire.

L. 277. *The bord'ring vale*] The Vale of Roſs, the Welch Chersonesus lies beyond Milford Haven, famous for the birth of St Patrick, the tutelary ſaint of Ireland, whoſe father was Calphurnius a britiſh prieſt, and his mother ſiſter to St Martin of Tours. This tract of land, by permiſſion of Henry I. was inhabited by Flemings, who in proceſs of time, by their intermarriages among the Welch, were entirely blended with, and undiſtinguiſhed from them.

MENEVIA's venerable pile extends,
 And round surveys the ever-grateful store
 280 Of CERES, smiling o'er the furrow'd land ;
 But where his fleet great Richmond Henry moor'd,
 PEBIDIUC rudely shoots a steril waste.
 Here glorious VERNON to his natal land
 Returning, on the rocky coast was dash'd.
 285 In that sad moment pale BRITANNIA shed
 A copious flood of tears ; wild on the beach
 Trembling she stood, distraction in her eye
 Roll'd frantic, and with arms extended wide,
 In bitterness of soul, she thus addrest
 290 The GOD of ocean — " Gracious pow'r ! if e'er
 " Thy lov'd BRITANNIA in thy coral grot
 " Found

L. 278. *Menevia*] St Davids in Pembrokehire. This city is situated in the vale of Rofs, and boasts its derivation from St David, the tutelary saint of Wales, uncle to king Arthur and son of prince Xanthus and Melearia a nun ; he was a disciple of Dubricius, Abp of Wales, and succeeding him, translated the archiepiscopal see from Caer-Leon on Uke in Monmouthshire to St Davids, where he was buried. This see had then the seven suffragan Bps of Exeter, Bath, Hereford, Llandaff, Bangor, St Asaph, and Fernes in Ireland, and held its supremacy above four hundred years, when Sampson the 26th Abp, to shun a raging pestilence, carried the episcopal pall and dignity to Dole in Bretagne. After this time we hear of no Abp in Wales, though the Welch Bps acknowledged no other primate nor received consecration from any other than the Bp of St Davids, till Bernard, then Bp of that see, submitted to the jurisdiction of Canterbury in the reign of Henry I. St Davids formerly was often razed by pirates, and is now but a mean city, with nothing remarkable but a fair church, dedicated to St Andrew and David, built by Peter, its Bp in the reign of king John.

L. 281. *Where Richmond Henry moor'd*] Milford Haven, one of the finest harbours in Europe, having thirteen roads, five bays, and sixteen creeks, all known by several and distinct names.

L. 282. *Pebidiuc*] Or St David's land, a long mountainous tract, very rocky and steril, without the least natural ornament of trees, meadows or rivers.

" Found gentle salutation, hear my pray'r!
 " See there my dearest BRITON, ah! behold
 " The gallant HERO, whose victorious arm
 295 " Laid low the bulwarks of imperious SPAIN;
 " Brave as my DRAKE, and as my RALEIGH great.
 " Thus must he perish, and these gushing eyes
 " Look unavailing on the dreadful scene.
 " Oh ruler of the seas! avert the stroke
 300 " Of fate; oh! spare, prolong that useful life,
 " For me, his king, his country and mankind!"
 The God roll'd up his lucid car, and o'er
 The ruffled deep his trident waving, cry'd,
 " Thy pray'r be granted; well the HERO claims
 305 " The naval wreath, here take it, bind it round
 " His manly brow.—Cease ye hoarse billows cease
 " Contention, ye rude winds in peace be lull'd;
 " Tritons and Nereids from your azure caves
 " Ascend, attendant on this son of FAME,
 310 " And prosp'rous breezes swell the spreading sails."
 Obedient to the word, the rough sea smil'd,
 While the tall ship uninterrupted wing'd
 Her speedy way, and safely gain'd her port.

The END of the SECOND BOOK.

CAM-

"Found gentle slumber, here my prey of gold
"See there, my dearest, the arrow, and behold
"The gleaming flash of my victorious arm
"I find how the bowman of impetuous strain
"Brave as my Frank, and as my Frank is great
"Thus with his bow, and with his galling eye
"Look unflinching on the dreadful scene
"Of the of the least, even the stroke
"Of the of the least, even the stroke
"For me, his king, his country and mankind
"The God roll'd up his iron car, and o'er
"The rusted deep, his silent waving, cry'd
"They may be grieved; well the Hero claims
"The most worthy, here take it, find it round
"His kindly bow—Come ye heroic billows on
"Gentle, ye winds in peace be still
"I need not needs from your cave
"Alas, I need not needs from your cave
"And gentle waves swell the foaming tide
"Obedient to the word, the touch the mild
"While the tall ship unimpeded wing'd
"Her speedy way, and safely gain'd her port

The END of the SACRED BOOK

END

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Of the Third Book.

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CAMBRIA.

BOOK III.

LET the learn'd sage, on Nature's works intent,
 Thro' Cambria journey, and his curious search
 May benefit mankind ; if from the womb
 Of earth, he seeks the vary'd min'ral pow'r ;
 5 Or o'er the wither'd rock, or meadow dank,
 Explores the vegetable life ; or culls
 Pharmatic simples from the wood and heath ;
 Or traces out the medicinal spring.
 If others, fond of antique ruins, mow'd
 10 By TIME's enormous scythe, delight to search
 The raz'd up city, or the rampart fam'd
 For military toil ; do they admire
 The nodding turret, and the moss-worn arch
 Supportless ? let them quit SIGÆAN coasts,
 15 Nor ILIUM seek or CARTHAGE ; tho' the son

- Of PHILIP, grateful to PELIDES' fame,
 On SIMOIS' banks the cenotaph uprais'd
 Of sacred friendship; or the prime of men,
 Immortal SCIPIO! on the PUNIC shore
 20 Swell'd the proud column tow'ring to the skies.
 In CAMBRIAN limits DESOLATION's foot
 Stamps on the wasted town, and as the plough
 Delves up the furrows, marks the mural fence.
 Where SEVERN in her state collected, flows
 25 Majestic, and her Æstuary fill'd
 With ev'ry inland tributary stream,
 Divides SILURIA from the western coast;
 There in past centuries the BELGÆ saw
 Fronting their neighbour shore, the lofty spires
 30 Of glitt'ring ISCA eminently rise,
 Superbly

L. 25. *Æstuary*] The Severn-Sea flowing between Glamorgan-shire and Somersetshire.

L. 28. *Belgæ*] Were that part of the antient Britons inhabiting Somersetshire, Wiltshire, and Hampshire.

L. 30. *Isca*] Or Burrium, the metropolis of the Roman Britannia Secunda, and residence of the second legion, situated on the river Isca, or Uske, in Monmouthshire; distinguished by the name of Isca Silurum, as Exeter was then called Isca Danmonii. From the many visible remains of temples, palaces, theatres, baths and other public buildings, we may conclude this place to have been of great eminence among the Romans; for not long ago here were dug up the ruins of a temple dedicated to Diana by Haterianus, proprætor under Augustus, also the image of that goddess, a votive altar, and other curiosities. In this city the Roman ambassadors had their conference with king Arthur. The two British martyrs Julius and Aaron were interred here, and had churches consecrated to their memory; and here was born Amphibalus, tutor of St Alban. It was remarkable for being the archiepiscopal see of Britain, till Dubrinus, in a synod at Isca, resigned the dignity to St David; and before the Saxons arrival, this city boasted a college of two hundred astronomers.

- Superbly grand, gay-dazling o'er the waves
 With ROMAN lustre. Dire amazement! ah,
 Is that small mart, is NEWPORT all the spoil
 Of glorious ISCA? — GENIUS of the world!
- 35 High guardian of the fates of empires, states,
 And cities, whence this desolated scene?
 When TIME stalks by terrific, down before
 His stride enormous, gorgeous temples, tow'rs,
 And palaces magnificent descend;
- 40 Rude DESOLATION paves his horrid way,
 Down rush imperial fabricks, crash the domes,
 And nodding fall; the tott'ring column sinks,
 While mould'ring in the strong-cemented wall,
 Maim'd stones jut frightful, and declare the strength
- 45 Of turrets that withstood the batt'ring ram.
 Thus ISCA crumbled into nothing, thus
 Her sister VENTA in oblivion sunk,
 Thus shall this GLOBE dissolve, all NATURE die,
 When TIME shall lay his fickle to the root
- 50 Of BEING, dropping NIGHT's eternal veil.

NEAR

astronomers. In the reign of Henry II. this place was of considerable strength, as Yrwith of Caer Leon then defended it for a long time against the English; but now as an exemplary instance of the transitory duration of the laborious works of human vanity, this city has nothing left to perpetuate its grandeur, but the small town of Newport.

L. 47. *Venta*] Was another Roman city upon the Wye in Monmouthshire, called *Venta Silurum*, to distinguish it from *Venta Belgarum*, now Winchester. This city was the metropolis of the *Silures*, and nothing inferior to *Isca*; but for many years entirely sunk in ruins, out of which sprung the present Chepstow, where is still the remains of a castle, reported to have been built by Julius Cæsar.

NEAR TELRAN's rev'rend dome, not far the space,
 Where BARRY's cliff projecting breaks the tide ;
 Pent in whose hollow womb flatulent winds
 Emit all ÆTNA's noise, loud as the din
 55 When VULCAN's CYCLOPS forg'd the bolts of JOVE.

WHEN LIBRA feels the equinoctial sun,
 And waving AUTUMN in the golden vale
 With bounteous harvest nods ; soon as grey morn
 Impearls the hawthorn, come, arise, and climb
 60 Plinlimmon's mount : there spring the sister-streams
 Whose waves enriching wash the CAMBRIAN foil.
 SABRINA eastward in amfractuous maze

Like

L. 51. *Telran*] The cathedral of Llandaff in Glamorganhire, built near the river Taff, by the French Bps German and Lupus after their suppression of the Pelagian heresy, and consecrated to St Telran. William Morgan, who translated the Bible into the Welch language, for so beneficial a performance, was deservedly promoted to this see.

L. 52. *Barry*] A small island, about three miles from the mouth of Taff, in the Severn-Sea, where holy Baruch ended his hermetical life. Giraldus Cambrensis, arch-deacon of Brecknock, reports, that in one of the cliffs upon this island appears a little chink, whence issues a noise very like smiths working at a forge, which Clemens Alexandrinus ascribes to the flatulent winds gathered in the rock sounding like cymbals. This island gave name to its lords, the noble Barries of Ireland.

L. 60. *Plinlimmon*] A hill of great height in Montgomeryshire, whence spring the rivers Severn, Wye and Ridol. The Severn, immediately from its source, makes a great number of windings, and after much struggling enters Shropshire, runs through the middle of Worcesterhire and Gloucestershire, and makes the Severn-Sea.

The Wye, after running through the borders of Montgomeryshire, divides the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, and gliding through the middle of Herefordshire, afterwards parts Gloucestershire from Monmouthshire, and joins the Severn near Chepstow.

The Ridol takes its course into Cardiganhire, and after joining the Stuccia, or Ystwith, falls into the

- Like wild MÆANDER roves, and states the bounds
 Of Nations in her course ; rich with the freight
 65 Of commerce, wafting plenty as she flows.
 Relucēt VAGA southwards from her source
 Glides thro' SILURIA to DOBUNIAN meads,
 And fondly rushes in SABRINA's arms:
 While scanty RIDOL, western STUCCIA join'd,
 70 At ABERYSTWITH seeks the spacious BAY.
 The wide horizon circling to the view,
 Far as the visual ray can pierce, serene
 And blue, shines lovely ; in the marbled vault,
 The sun exalted high, shoots glorious round
 75 The burnish'd day : how thick the tawny fields
 Proud of their culmiferous crop ? the lawns
 How gayly spread with frisking herds and flocks ?
 The frondose woods how still ? save where the groans
 Of dying DRYADS sound, by the sharp axe
 80 Cleft to the vital core and crashing down.
 The sun-tann'd reapers range the furrow'd ridge ;
 And yielding to the sickle, low the grain
 Protended lies : the springing covey whirl
 Loud flutt'ring to the lurid copse : the mirth
 85 Of rustics, bandied o'er the sheaf-strown balks,
 Swells the rude laugh ; while the blouze damsel trails
 Her rake, assiduous with his pitchfork waits,
 The leering lover gazing on her charms,
 Where all the soft protuberance unveil'd,

With

L. 70. *Spacious bay*] The bay of Cardigan, extending from the town of Cardigan to Brachipult point in Carnarvonshire.

90 With luscious whiteness fires his dancing heart,
 Wrapt in an ecstasy of painful joy.

HAPPY the farmer, whose industrious care
 Indulgent suns befriend, and in the stack
 Or mow unhurt, secure the treasur'd grain :

95 For AUSTER often summons all his rage,
 And rudely blows ; lodg'd is the full-ear'd corn,
 Or rooted eddies through the whistling air,
 Or loosen'd from its husk untimely falls ;
 And should long louring clouds roll gloomy, down

100 Stream heavy beating show'rs, and deluge all
 The plains : flash'd horrid thro' diurnal night
 Red lightnings gleam ; and now the thunders growl
 Bursts awful, rowling with continuous roar :
 Heav'n opens, and the livid fires glance thick,

105 Fast, and more fast the big-dropt rain descends,
 Again erupting runs the rattling peal
 Increas'd, so deep, it shakes the lab'ring POLES ;
 Wing'd in that loudest clap out-pacing thought
 Shot the fierce-flaming bolt, and see yon oak

110 The mountain's pride, scath'd, riven, smoaking dies.
 Fast from the steep acclivity the storm
 Flows in an inundation o'er the fields ;
 The Rivers swelling wide their channels leave,
 And with avulsion swift sweep all before.

115 But chief were rapid VURNWY, foaming, makes

Its

L. 115. *Vurnwy*] A river rising in Montgomeryshire, and after being joined with another Vurnwy that springs in Merionethshire, and by the rivers Clethe, Tannet and Mord, makes its confluence with the Severn near Melverly in Shropshire, a river rushing with such

- Its gulphy influx with the LOCRINE wave,
 Is DESOLATION's seat ; impetuous rush
 The sweeping torrents, and commixing flow
 Like PHARIAN NILE.—Slunk weary on his bed,
 120 The snoring hind, alas ! no more awakes :
 His cott, his cattle, his autumnal store,
 Float with his drowning family away
 Far-distant ; or if timely warn'd, he saves
 His wife, or infants naked in his arms,
 125 Not one of all his num'rous flock escapes.
 Thus he who yester morn, in happy thought
 Summ'd up the product of his annual toil,
 And deem'd his fate from penury secure ;
 Now piteous, with distracted eye, bewails
 130 His swallow'd substance, and in anguish sues
 The hand of CHARITY to succour life.
 BUT in the sunny eve, let me ascend
 High PENMAENMAUR ; and up the stony path,
 Arch'd with worn ragged rocks, laborious climb:
 135 How dizzy is the prospect down the steep ?
 The dying breeze scarce curls the placid waves
 Far-glancing the reflected radiance ; furl'd
 Her useless sails, the vessel rides becalm'd,
 Just-swaying as the cable drags its length ;
 140 The prow faint murmurs, and the liquid green

G

Seems

such violent rapidity it often deluges great parts of the adjacent countries, and this so sudden, the inhabitants sometimes perish in the inundation.

L. 133. *Penmaenmaur*] Or the great stony head, a very large and high rock in Carnarvonshire, hanging over the Sea, which lies of a wonderful depth below the mountain.

Seems gently lull'd asleep; the crouded deck
Is merry, where the mariner oft wet
With drenching waves, and to the roaring storm
Or chilling blast defenceless, now forgets
145 Each toil and peril imminent of death.

DARK'NING the face of day, a whirring scry
Approaches; low they skim the cerule plain,
Then rising seem to breast the sailing clouds:
These annual as autumnal seasons roll,

150 From distant coasts their plummy voyage speed,
And with their clamant cry, wild on the rocks
Of YNIS LIGOD fix their drear abode.

ROUGH Penmaenbychan, o'er the wide-green plain
Contiguous to its sloping base, directs

155 The view where old CONOVIVS gliding slow
His pearl-stor'd wave, points out the ruin'd seat
Of DICTUM, sunk in one tremendous blaze
Of light ethereal, instantaneous lost.

THERE

L. 142. *Ynis Ligod*] Or the isle of Mice, a small island on the back of Anglesea, crouded with innumerable quantities of wild fowl.

L. 153. *Penmaenbychan*] Or the lesser stony head, adjoining to Penmaenmaur, is a long ridge of small rocky mountains, terminating in a broad plain that reaches to

L. 155. *Conovivus*] The river Conway, issuing out of a pool in the corner of Carnarvonshire, contiguous to Merionethshire, and dividing the counties of Carnarvon and Denbigh falls in the Sea at Aberconway, formerly Conovium an old city of the Romans. In this river are said to have been found shell-fish, producing very transparent pearls.

L. 157. *Dictum*] Or Diganwy, an old Roman city, built on the promontory of Gogarth, just over the mouth of Conway, destroyed by lightning; where Henry III. afterwards built a strong castle to curb the Welch.

THERE MONA, girt by circumfluent waves,
 160 Erects its spiry rocks; the pregnant soil,
 With corn thick-bending, rich abundance yields;
 Whole droves of lusty herds and fleecy flocks
 Pure verdure crop, and batten o'er the meads.

G 2

There

L. 159. *Mona*] The fertile and pleasant isle of Anglesea, in length from E. to W. twenty miles, and in breadth seventeen, where the kings of Guynedd resided at their palace of Aberfraw. — Very remarkable is this island for being the seat of the British Druids, of whom particular mention has been made in the notes of the first book; and here it will not be improper to hint at the British mythology. Taran, or the Thunderer, was their principal deity, and the same with Jupiter; Camulus was the British Mars; Adraestes their Minerva; Arduenna their Diana; Belinus their Apollo; and Tutatus, or Teutates, the same with Mercury, as relative to the god of travellers; for we can hardly suppose the Britons to have worshipped this deity, like the Grecians, as the god of trade and sciences. And for their precepts of divinity hear the florid but unhappy Roman.

Et vos barbaricos ritus, moremque sinistrum
 Sacrorum Druidæ positis repetistis ab armis.
 Solis nosse deos, & cæli numina vobis,
 Aut solis nescire datum: nemora alta remotis
 Incolitis lucis. Vobis autoribus, umbræ
 Non tacitas erebi sedes, ditisque profundis
 Pallida regna petunt: regit idem spiritus artus
 Orbe alio. Longæ (canitis si cognita) vitæ
 Mors media est. —

Luc. lib. I.

— Certe populi, quos despicit arctos,
 Felices errore suo, quos ille timorum
 Maximus haud urget læti metus. Inde ruendi
 In ferrum mens prona viris, animæque capaces
 Mortis, & ignavum est redituræ parcere vitæ.

IBID.

These religious tenets of the Druids were not very different to the doctrine of the more refined antients, for the Pythagorean sect were of opinion that

Morte carent animæ: semperque, priore relicta
 Sede, novis domibus habitant, vivuntque receptæ.
 Omnia mutantur: nihil interit. Errat, & illinc.

Huc

There once the palace of GUYNETHIAN kings
 165 Lies ABERFRAW, where antient DRUIDS held
 Their consecrated shades, and taught what rites
 Should from their holy fanes ascend ; kneel'd low
 To cloud-compelling TARAN, and implor'd
 The rolling thunder, and the lightning's flash,
 To

Huc venit, hinc illuc, & quoslibet occupat artus
 Spiritus : æque f. ris humana in corpora transit,
 Inque feras noster : nec tempore deperit ullo.
 Utque novis facilis signatur cera figuris,
 Nec manet ut fuerat, nec formas servat easdem,
 Sed tamen ipsa eadem est : animam sic temper eandem
 Esse, sed in varios doceo migrare figuras.

OVID MET. lib. XV.

And the Epicureans knew not how to fix on any determinate idea
 of the soul.

Ignoratur enim quæ sit natura animæ :
 Nata sit, an, contra, nascentibus insinuetur :
 Et simul intereat nobiscum morte dirempta :
 An tenenbras orci visat, vastasque lacunas,
 An pecudes alias divinitus insinuet se.

LUCRET. lib. I.

While Claudian in a more refined age says

— Certis ambagibus ævi

Rursus corporeos animæ mutantur in artus

RAP. PROS.

But the poetical astronomer seems to have entertained the most
 rational opinion, when he wrote

— Fortes animæ, dignatæque nomina cælo
 Corporibus resoluta suis, terræque remissa
 Huc migrant ex orbe, suumque habitantia cælum
 Ethereos vivunt annos, mundoque fruuntur.

MANIL. lib. I.

Our antient Druids were of the first and true patriarchal religion,
 as used in the pastoral ages, with little or no idolatry, being planted
 here very soon after the time of Abraham. Their temples and
 groves were copied from the antient patriarchs, only more magni-
 ficent, as being a numerous and potent nation. They had an ex-
 pectation of the Messiah, a notion of the time of year when he
 was to be born, that is, the winter solstice, which they celebrated
 by

- 170 To blast their foes ; or stain'd with hostile gore
 Invok'd CAMULUS to direct the war ;
 Round chaste ADRASTE's shrine, the virgins sung
 Their choral hymns, and victory requir'd ;
 To ARDUENNA, sylvan goddess, bled
 175 The forest hart or mountain deer, to guard
 Their herds ; BELINUS by the rev'rend sage
 Receiv'd the honours of the DELPHIC god ;
 And to TUTATUS journey'ng vot'ries bow'd.
 Here taught the sacred seers, how fleeting life
 180 For ever varies, never dies ; the soul
 Departing, in another body breathes
 Fresh life, and thro' a long succession rolls
 The round of TIME, a period that exists
 Coeval with the sun ; and when this ball,
 185 With all the form of NATURE shall dissolve
 Away, and perish ; then the soul shall spring
 Immortal, and her virtue merit heav'n.
 Thus taught they like the SAMIAN sage, and fir'd
 The kindling heart unaw'd to look out death,
 190 And glorious danger in the tented field,
 Till AGRICOLA from SEGONTIUM's gate
 Plung'd

by their misleto solemnities. The mysteries of the antients were the first deviations from true religion, and a perversion of that knowledge which the patriarchs had of the distinct personalities in the deity ; which, when the British Druids had departed from, they universally preserved their own tenets, till Julius Agricola ravaged the whole island of Anglesea, and expelled the Druids from their antient habitation : the Britons then adopted the Roman worship, and imitated them in the apotheosis of their princes and heroes.

L. 191. *Segontium*] A Roman city, situate on the banks of the river Seiont in Carnarvonshire ; formerly called Hean Caer Cufenith,
 or

Plung'd thro' the MENAI, like a whirlwind flew,
And ravag'd all their sanctimonious groves.

FROM NEVIN o'er LANGANUM's fallow bound,
195 The pack uncoupled, eager for the chase,
Ring thro' resounding woods the deep-mouth'd peal;
Shrill-winding horns, gay-noted, shake the fields
With tuneful ecchoes; sprightly coursers neigh;
The hunter-train, succinctly clad in green,
200 Feel the wild living joy impulsive rise:
Away the fox unkennell'd springs; they sweep
O'er hills and dales, bound o'er the gate or hedge,
Brush thro' the thicket, plunge amid the stream,
And leave the deep morass or ditch behind:
205 Half the long day they scour extensive tracts;
When the sagacious hounds, redoubling sound
His knell, and stretch'd on earth the felon bleeds.

WHEN the pale moon shoots out her silver rays,
And gilds the twilight dun, up thro' the vault
210 Of heav'n, with broad'ning phase full-orb'd she rides,
And flowing tremulous the softer day,
Serenely shines: swift darting meteors play,
And

or the city of Constantine, where the body of Constantius, father to Constantine the Great, was found A. D. 1283. and honourably interred by command of Edward I. in Carnarvon, then lately built from the remains of Segontium.

L. 192. *Menai*] The narrow sea or firth that divides Anglesea from Carnarvonshire.

L. 194. *Nevin*] A market town in Carnarvonshire, where the nobility of England in the year 1284. after defeating the Welch army, celebrated the memory of the British Arthur with jousts and tournaments.

L. 194. *Langanum*] A large promontory, near Nevin, with fine open fertile fields.

And glance long-streaming thro' the clear expanse,
 Portending horror ; while lone skrieing owls
 215 Skim round the night, and on the casement flap
 With ululations, deem'd by simple minds
 All-ominous of wan disease or death.
 Not so the son of WISDOM, forth he walks
 Amid the solemn gloom where BANGOR rears
 220 Her holy temple ; nor the charnell'd tombs
 'Fill'd with the rotting bones of sin and pride,
 Avert his step, but seem to cry aloud
 " This is thy end, oh man!" — Revolving deep
 The short existence of this mortal frame,
 225 Where in the grave distinction is no more,
 Save where some sculptur'd ostentation, shews
 Corruption feeding o'er the grosser corse
 Of pamper'd riot, while the beggar-dust
 Unknown beside him in oblivion sleeps :
 230 Hence human glory he contemns, and turns
 His gaze to yon ethereal world above,
 Where in each quiv'ring streak that spires along,
 He finds the god-head infinitely good,
 And wise ; who thus calls up the vapours bland
 235 From steaming earth, dilates them subtile thro'
 The floating atmosphere, with chilly night
 Refining,

L. 219. *Bangor*] Or the fair Church, formerly so large as to
 gain the name of Bangor Vaur, but now a small city in Carnavon-
 shire, dignify'd with a bishopric ; its situation is low, enclosed with
 a high mountain on the south, and on the north by a little hill ; it
 once had a handsome church built by king Lucius, and dedicated to
 St Daniel, but destroyed by Owen Glendour, when he intended to
 raze all the cities of Wales ; which was afterwards reedified by its Bp
 Henry Dean, n 1496.

- Refining, to descend in orient dew,
 Or as the luminary worlds appear,
 He casts a mental eye to farthest heav'ns,
 240 Stars undiscover'd, systems yet unknown,
 Beyond the pow'r of optics to descry,
 Where since CREATION have revolving spheres
 Travell'd unseen by mortal view ; or those
 Of nearer space, that stud the milky zone,
 245 Transmitting thro' the glass unnumber'd rays ;
 And those that twinkle on the naked eye :
 From the mean glow-worm shining on the grass,
 Discerns OMNIPOTENCE in order, state,
 And beauty equal with the orb of JOVE.
 250 PHILOSOPHY hence fires the conscious heart,
 With intellectual awe ; informs the soul,
 How weak, inane, how despicably poor,
 Are all the labour'd works AMBITION frames ;
 Bids PRIDE survey the stellar host, then own
 255 How mean is MAN, how admirable GOD !
 To thee bright queen of night ! his raptur'd eye
 Turns rev'rent, and adores thy virtual pow'r
 O'er heav'n, on earth, and in the deep abyfs :
 Thinks how from earliest time, thy lasting beam
 260 Has darted on the many wise and good,
 In ev'ry age, thro' ev'ry clime renown'd ;
 And glowing with their sacred fame, he longs
 To launch thro' life, and join the godlike train
 Of heroes, sages, demigods and saints,
 265 Whose gracious spirits hover round his walk,
 Breathe in his soul the fervent hope of heav'n,
 Conduct

Conduct him safe from erring paths of life,
 With infant slumbers seal his eyelids down,
 And paint in visions their seraphic bliss.

70 THE southern TROPIC feels the fainter sun
 From SAGITTARIUS roll, and total hangs
 O'er arctic climes the long nocturnal gloom.
 WINTER comes shiv'ring from his icy cave,
 Surrounded with a train of boreal winds;
 75 From SCANDINAVIA's ever-frigid coast,
 The woodcock seeks our milder shore: the day
 Is short, and horizontal gleams the sun,
 Weak, wat'ry, on the rough impervious glebe.

LIKE ALPS ON ALPS, PELION o'er OSSA pil'd,
 80 High as OLYMPUS, lost in airy heighth
 Rise SNOWDON hills; encompass'd by a range
 Of rocks, stupendous far above the soar
 Of eagles, thrusts the monarch-mountain up
 His brow sublime; crown'd with eternal frost;

H

Large

L. 281. *Snowdon hills*] Or Craeg Eriry, the loftiest mountains in Britain, situate in the inland part of Carnarvonshire; not less steep than the Italian Alps, for ever covered with snow like the Niphates of Armenia, and bleak as the Scythian Imaus; reared so thick and lofty they may well be termed the staircases of nature. In the middle of these mountains stands one much superior to the rest — These inaccessible hills yielded a secure refuge to the Britons from the fury of Rome; for abounding with so many roughs and rocks, so many vales full of woods, traversed with abundance of pools, that the Germans, who were the lightest armed of the Roman soldiers, could never penetrate this sanctuary of the Britons; who by their agility in treading the boggy summits, not only escaped from, but often severely galled their enemies. These mountains have such plenty of grass, it is generally said, they are able to pasture all the cattle in Wales. And on the top of them are two meares, in one of which is reported to be a floating island, and the other well stored with fish.

285 Large piles of congregated fleet, and snow,
 Incrusted hard: hence when the fervid sun
 In LEO blazes, a dissolving thaw
 Shrinks the concreted waste, and loosen'd flow
 Whole fluicy torrents down the sand-wash'd hills,
 290 Red, broad, and rapid swimming o'er the vales.
 Where USKE with chrystal lapse trills on, as fond
 To wind, and wanton thro' BRECHANIAN vales,
 And waits her purling HODNEY's nuptial fall:
 Amid these plains, as fame reports, once stood
 295 LOVENTIUM's ample walls; full-peopled, fair,
 The residence of thousands; long absorpt,
 Lost total in the gaping womb of earth,
 Down to the centre sunk the spacious round,
 With all her stately structures, lofty spires,
 300 And tow'rs magnific, down the yawning gulph
 All-swallow'd; in one universal groan
 The city's life expir'd; lost in the dark
 Profound! while o'er their heads the pond'rous jaws
 Of earth, closing, for ever seal'd them down.
 305 Sure NATURE this was thy tremendous work,
 Where for long ages in their caverns pent,
 Sulphureous

L. 291. *Uske—Brechanian vales—Hodney*] The river Uske has its rise out of the black mountain, on the confines of Brecknockshire, which country receives its name from Brechanius, one of the British princes; Uske runs with a shallow stream through the middle of the county to the town of Brecknock, called in Welch, Aber Hodney, because the rivers Hodney and Uske here mingle their streams together. In the reign of Henry VIII. this town had a collegiate church with fourteen prebends.

L. 295. *Loventium*] Was a Roman city destroyed by an earthquake, and supposed to have stood where now lies

Sulphureous beds and stores of nitre lay,
 Engend'ring dire combustion ; when the wrath
 Of injur'd heav'n, vindictive on a race
 10 Of impious mortals, wak'd the latent fires ;
 Accended by the potent word, earth heav'd,
 And "dreadful ! wide disparting, oh ! the wild
 Dislosion burst ! as if the gen'ral orb
 Of BEING was destroy'd, the massy hinge
 15 Of Nature broke, and worlds came crushing down.
 ETERNAL ARCHITECT ! the glorious frame
 Of all this ball, yon argent fields of light,
 Those radiant spheres that flame from pole to pole,
 And all these circumfluent seas are thine ;
 20 By thee sustain'd ; oh ! let thy arm uphold
 The nations, and such rude iruptions cease.

HAPPY BRITANNIA ! seldom has the blast
 Of whirlwinds, or the shock of earthquakes, smote
 Thy peaceful shore ; thy natives hear the fate
 25 Of other regions, and compassion drops
 The human tear on LIMA's fatal end.

Now o'er LOVENTIUM's ruin'd space, the meare
 Of LYN SAVATHAN spreads ; amid the lake
 LEVENNY's tenuous stream luculent dives
 30 Unmingling ; thwart the stagnant pond, conveys
 In virgin purity, her native rills,

H 2

Embracing

L. 328. *Lynsavathan*] Or Brecknock Meare, a pool about two miles in length, and the same in breadth, not far from Brecknock, and to corroborate this opinion, 'tis alledged the highways centred here. Through this lake runs

L. 329. *Levenny*] A little river which keeps its own colour, very different from the pool, carrying its own waters out again without intermingling, and joins the Uske near the Roman

Embracing ISCA near GOBANTIUM's wall.
 When keen the nipping EAST, in algid morn
 Breathes foul-acuteness thro' the nitrous air,
 335 Chill frost comes settling o'er pellucid streams
 And numbs the roving fluid into ice:
 Then toil-invigorated swains, rush o'er
 The slipp'ry meare swift-sliding, and amaz'd,
 Thro' the transparent chrystal see how deep
 340 Beneath the many-fathom'd waters lie.

WHILE fast the drifted snow descends, of men
 Most wretched he, lost with belated step
 Amid MERVINIAN steeps: the pathless tract
 No guidance yields, uncertain each faint step
 345 Trembling he takes; deep horror fills his soul;
 Bewilder'd, up to heav'n he rolls a look
 All-piteous, and astounded, with his cold
 Enfeebled limbs, down, weary, prone he drops
 Extended, ling'ring in the piercing air,
 350 Till bitter night congeals the vital flood,
 And lifeless lays him shriv'ling to the blast.

IN CERETICA's ample stretching bay,
 Prophetic of a storm, the porpoise plays

Along

L. 332. *Gobantium*] Now Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, so called from the rivers Uske and Gevenny, or Levenny, meeting here, which soon after form Isca Haven in Kingroad.

L. 343. *Mervinian steeps*] Hills in the middle of Merionethshire, prodigiously high, rude and unpleasant; rising pyramidically so very close together, that the shepherds may hold discourse from one to the other, yet so high, if they agree to meet they can hardly do it from morning till night. Great flocks of sheep graze on these mountains, and the public road runs through many parts of them, very dangerous for travelling in winter. The wolves greatly infested this country till Ludwall destroyed them.

L. 352. *Ceretica's bay*] The bay of Cardigan.

- Along the waves, high snorting up the brine;
 355 The brumal winds hoarse mutter o'er the deep;
 Inflated billows boil, the welkin lours,
 And in full force the gather'd tempest rides.
 Far-breasting her ill-fated way, yon bark
 Rolls buffeted, toft and retoft; aloft
 360 Rides on the mountain-swell, then plunging down,
 The hollow waters dismal hem her round,
 Amazing chasm! again she rises, down
 Again descending: vain the rudder guides,
 No course she steers, drove wild before the wind.
 365 Abandon'd to despair, the helpless crew
 Shriek hideous; HARLEGH crouds its numbers on
 The strand, intent to save each hapless wretch:
 The rude winds louder roar, conflicting waves
 Rage foaming high; torn by that rending blast
 370 Off flits the canvass; yielding to the storm
 Falls the tall mast: dash'd madly to and fro,
 The tempest-beaten hulk admits the tide
 Fast-pouring in her shatter'd planks; one groan
 Of death, brings horrid the last dismal cry;
 375 Down sinks the vessel swallow'd in the deep,
 And booming o'er their heads the big waves roll.
 Smiting their horrent breasts, distraction pale,
 And speechless sorrow fill the gazing throng.

ALL

L. 366. *Harlegb*] Or Caer Colun, a town in the little territory of Ardudwy in Merionethshire, once fortified with a strong castle on a steep rock over the Sea, built by Edward I. which David ap Jenkin, in the civil wars between the house of York and Lancaster, bravely defended against Edward IV. until Sir William Herbert, afterwards Earl of Pembroke, like another Hannibal, penetrating through the mountains obliged him to surrender it.

- ALL the long night the conglobated storm
 380 Howls frightful; yet in CLUYD's fertile vale
 Bluff yeomen broach the soul-inspiring cask;
 VIRGINIA's weed whiff'd thro' exhaling tubes,
 Puffs away care, and relishes the cup.
 Fir'd by the social glass, with honest hearts
 385 Their ROYAL PRINCE's health goes jovial round.
 With merry minstrelsy the BRITISH harp
 Resounds; the skilful lyrist strains the chords
 In solemn tone, or with a volant sweep
 Soft-trembles melting airs; his vocal song,
 390 Responsive, MARIDUNUM's sage extols;
 Chaunts ARTHUR's chivalry, and how he fell
 With

L. 380. *Cluyd's vale*] Or Diffren Cluyd, a most beautiful, pleasant and fertile valley, lying in the heart of Denbighshire, extending S. and N. about seventeen miles in length, and in breadth about five; open to the sea and clearing north wind, on every other side surrounded with high hills. A wholesome country, rich with pasture and tillage, and well inhabited. The river Cluyd, rising in the corners of Denbighshire and Merionethshire, being joined by the Manyan, comes to Ruthin, a large and populous town in the south part of the vale of Cluyd; then running through the middle of the vale, and taking in Cloweddock and Istrad, goes by St Asaph, and meeting a stream from Holywell, enters the Sea below Chester bar. This vale of Cluyd is reported to have been a distinct monarchy, erected by the Scottish Britons; and Marianus mentions a king of the strat Cluyd, or vale of Cluyd.

L. 390. *Maridunum*] Or town of Marius, now Carmarthen, famous for the birth of Merlin Silvester, as eminent for his predictions among the Britons as Tages was among the Hetrurians. This was once a fair town, but 6th Henry IV. was besieged and spoiled by the French assisting Owen Glendour, and in the reign of Edward VI. was beautified with a collegiate church, to which it was intended to have removed the see of St Davids; and here was kept the chancery and exchequer for South Wales.

L. 391. *Arthur*] Was king of Britain, A. D. 506. though the Monkish writers have greatly exaggerated on the life of this prince, and

With MORDRED near TINDAGIUM; and recites
 How BENNO's art restor'd the VIRGIN SAINT.
 Or TIME's old chronicle, silver'd with age,
 395 Demands attention; and TRADITION's tale
 Recounting, tells how fam'd MENEVIA's priest,
 Marshall'd his BRITONS, and the SAXON host
 Discomfited; how the green LEEK his bands
 Distinguish'd, since by BRITONS annual worn
 400 Commemorates their TUTELARY SAINT;
 How great CADWALLADER forsook his throne,
 And warn'd by angels, in ascetic weeds

The

and justly given posterity an occasion to suspect the truth of many acts of chivalry affabulated to him and his knights of the round table; yet we are so far able to arrive at the knowledge and glory of this monarch, that his real achievements in preserving his country from imminent destruction, and undoubted bravery, have ranked him in the list of the greatest worthies of mankind; and pity it is so great and admirable a hero, could find no brighter records than the dull legends of monkish incredulity, to transmit his fame with a lustre equal to his character; but in this the great Arthur suffers alike with Alexander, who grieved not more at his limited conquests, than that those he had made could find no abler testimony than the mean numbers of Chærilus to perpetuate his glory. Arthur, in a battle against his kinsman Mordred, near Tindagium, now Tindagel in Cornwall, engaging with Mordred, the quarrel ended in the death of both the combatants.

L. 393 *Benno*] At Holywell in Flintshire, is a well much frequented, in the superstitious ages, by pilgrims, in memorial of Winifred, ravished and beheaded here by a tyrant, who attributed many miraculous cures to the virtue of the water. Over the well is a stone chapel of curious workmanship, and a small church adjoining, where is portray'd in one of the windows the history of St Winifred.

L. 396. *Menevia's priest*] St David, in a memorable battle against the Saxons, ordered his army to distinguish themselves from the enemy by wearing green leeks in their hats.

L. 401. *Cadwallader*] On his retiring to Rome, is said to have taken on him the habit of a Monk, by direction of an angel, and was buried at St Peter's.

The last of BRITISH kings expir'd at ROME.
 Relates how royal EDGAR clear'd the wolves
 405 By LUDWALL's tribute, and his golden barge
 Sail'd down the DEE, by vassal monarchs row'd;
 And tells how MORTIMER from MADOC's son
 Stole CHIRK's demesne; or traces out the soil
 Where antient BOVIUM held the cloister'd tribe.
 410 BUT now retreating from the public care,
 To homefelt joys illustrious WYNN arrives;
 The tender PARTNER of connubial bliss,
 Salutes

L. 404. *Edgar*] After reducing the heptarchy to one monarchy, and entering Wales, commuted the tribute imposed by Athelstane on Idwallo, of 20*l.* of gold, 300*l.* of silver, and 300 head of cattle, for 300 wolves; by which, in three years, Wales was entirely freed from the annoyance of those ravenous animals.

L. 406. *Dee*] Is a river rising out of the mountain of Rarduwawre, on the east side of Merionethshire; after running by Bala, and receiving the river Alwen, it enters Denbighshire, and near Llangollen is joined by Keiriog; then meeting with Clywedock, leaves Wrexham, and near Mould takes in Alin, remarkable for its flowing a considerable space under ground; the Dee then reaching Chester, below that city has a branch extending to the Mercy, and after approaching Flint and Holywell, forms the bar of Chester. On this river, A. D. 973. Edgar, to shew his supremacy, had his vessel gilt with gold, triumphantly rowed by the following eight royal vassals, Kenneth king of Scots, Malcolm king of Cumberland, Maccuis king of the Isles, Duffal, Gruffyth, Howell, Iago, and Indethel, kings or princes of Wales.

L. 408. *Chirk*] In Denbighshire, the present seat of Richard Myddleton, Esq; member of parliament for Denbigh, had antiently two castles called Chirk and Castle Dinas Bran, which, in the reign of Henry III. was the possession of Gruffyth ap Madoc; but Mortimer, guardian to the son of Gruffyth, in conjunction with John earl of Warren, seized this fair inheritance to his own use.

L. 409. *Bovium*] In Flintshire, was once a populous city, and afterwards very remarkable for the monastery of Banchor; where, Bp Stillingfleet says, were seven colleges and 2000 monks, 1200 of which were inhumanely massacred by Ethelfrid, king of Northumberland, at the instigation of Aussen the first Abp of Canterbury, because they refused to acknowledge his authority.

- Salutes him with the kind transported smile
 Of modest winning love; close to her heart
 415 With graceful fondness strains the dear embrace,
 And in the circle of her beauteous arms
 Folds the great blessing of celestial minds.
 The country wide rejoicing, ev'ry heart
 Exults, and o'er each honest face diffus'd,
 420 A gen'ral pleasure smiles: WYNNSTAY exceeds
 The princely palace throng'd by sordid tribes
 With venal adulation insincere:
 Here mild BENEFICENCE unfolds the gates,
 And in the vestibule fair VIRTUE stands
 425 With chearful aspect; Honour, Friendship, Truth,
 Surround the portal; with extended hands
 Conduct each welcome guest, proud to complete
 The board of hospitality, and WYNN.
 Look down ye sceptred monarchs from your thrones,
 430 See honour'd WILLIAMS circled by his friends,
 Wisely selected from a weeded world,
 Where LYSTER like a gem adorns the ring.
 And hark! in WREXHAM's beauteous hallow'd tow'rs,
 The tuneful bells are sally'd up, to give
 435 Their gen'rous donor gratulation sweet.

FROM lords of commotes, to the hind who tends
 The flock or herd that graze MOILENNY hills,

I RUTHUNIA,

L. 420. *Wynnstay*] In Denbighshire, a beautiful seat belonging to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn.

L. 432. *Lyster*] Richard Lyster, Esq; the worthy representative in parliament for the county of Salop.

L. 433. *Wrexham — bells*] Were the donation of Sir Watkin.

L. 437. *Moilenny*] The highest mountain in the vale of Clwyd, on which is a fountain of clear water, and the ruins of a warlike fence and rampart.

RUTHUNIA, DENBIGH, and DEVANA hail
 Their WATKIN's welcome; o'er the nectar bowl,
 440 Or flowing glass, with him a length of years:
 The shouting MANY join their hoarse huzza's,
 Tumultuous; even lisping infants strain
 Imperfect accents in the loud acclaim.

So when EPAMINONDAS, thro' the throng
 445 Of joyful Thebans, high-applauded past;
 The chief, the guardian of his country, found
 His merit grac'd with universal love.

THUS far the MUSE, ambitious to applaud
 Her natal country, fondly has assay'd
 450 To rove the flow'ry HELICONIAN round.
 Oh! sacred POPE! had heav'n illum'd my soul
 With one bright spark of thy ethereal flame,
 Then should the voice of WISDOM, perfect WIT,
 And holy VIRTUE warm the moral page.
 455 Yet let not the grave CENSOR deem my theme
 The song of FOLLY, nor with brow austere
 Condemn these trivial inoffensive lines:
 For say, ye rigid CYNICS, is the praise
 Of FREEDOM your contempt? shall a regard
 460 For bravest heroes, and a land renown'd
 Of old for noblest deeds, contract the frown
 Of quaint DERISION? if 'tis so, let loose
 The storm of MOMUS, I deserve it all.

L. 438. *Devana*] Chester, so called from its situation on the river Dec or Deva.

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Printed for S. BIRT in Ave-mary Lane, T. LONGMAN in
Pater-noster Row, P. VAILLANT in the Strand, J. WAUGH
in Lombard-street, and W. OWEN at Temple-Bar. 1750.

Note, *The Fourth and Last Volume is in the Press,*
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